

April 23, 2004

Garry Bahe  
E14149 Pacific Rd.  
Merrimac, WI 53561-9773

Dear Mr. Bahe:

The Town of Merrimac is in receipt of your petitions and associated documents requesting annexation to the Village of Merrimac. As Town Chair for many years, it has always been my intent to bring to the citizens of the Town all of the facts available pertaining to Town issues.

In light of this historic stance, and in relation to your recent petitions to annex to the Village of Merrimac, I would like to share some useful information that may have an impact on any decision you may make, including:

- The mill rate comparison in 2003, using a \$200,000 assessed valuation, would increase your taxes from approximately \$2,890 to \$3,870; or an increase of \$980, or 33.85%.
- An additional financial impact would be the cost of municipal water and sewer; the monthly base charge is \$39.50 with a user fee of \$9.43 per 1,000 gallons. The average family of 4 uses approximately 4,000 to 8,000 gallons per month. This equates to an average bill of \$77 to \$115 per month, or \$924 to \$1,380 a year. This does not include any potential hook-up.
- The Merrimac Area Fire Department provides fire and EMS services for the Town, which is the same as the Village of Merrimac.
- The Town of Merrimac provides garbage and recyclable pickup on a weekly basis for \$87.00 per year. Garbage collection for the Village is included within their tax levy.
- Per Wisconsin Statutes, all properties annexed after 1981 are still subject to the Shoreland Protection ordinances of Sauk County, unless the Village adopts their own Shoreland Protection regulations. Should the Village adopt such an ordinance that is at least as restrictive as the county's, ALL properties in the Village within 1,000 feet of Lake Wisconsin would be affected, which may limit

the ability to maintain or expand any structure that may be deemed non-conforming. This would also affect any soil disturbance activities, which includes both filling and grading.

- Wisconsin Senate Bill 87, or the Annexation Reform Act, was signed into law April 22, 2004 by the Governor. The law now requires the Village to pay the Town the value of the town tax in the tax year before the annexation occurred for a period of 5 years.

In closing, I would hope that the information provided within this letter will be helpful in the decisions you need to make as property owners. If you would like to discuss these issues in more detail, please feel free to contact me at your convenience at (608) 493-2106.

Sincerely,

Richard Grant  
Town Chairman

cc: Al Shanks, President  
Vern Weisenthal, Trustee  
Steve Rajchel, Trustee  
Michael Byrnes, Trustee  
Nick Hahn, Trustee  
Robert & Angelyn Garrison  
William Hanson  
Harvey & Rita Gascon  
Phillip & Karen Strathman  
Keith & Louise Garfoot  
Citizens of the Village of Merrimac via the Village Board  
Sauk Prairie Eagle, Editor  
Sauk Prairie Star, Editor  
Baraboo News Republic, Editor  
Wisconsin State Journal, Editor